

ONISCIDIA H. & A. ADAMS, 1853 (MOLLUSCA): PROPOSED ADDITON
TO THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY.
Z.N.(S.) 1983

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The genus-group name "*Oniscidia* Sowerby" was first introduced into malacological literature by Swainson (1840) as a misspelling of *Oniscia* Sowerby, 1824. *Oniscia* has been correctly spelled by Swainson in the same publication on page 67, twice on pages 70 and 71 and also in the Index. Gray (1847) refers to Swainson's misspelling by placing *Oniscidia* in the synonymy of *Oniscia* Sowerby. Herrmannsen (1847) was the first author to point out that *Oniscidia* Swainson is a typographical error for *Oniscia* Sowerby, and this view is held by recent authors, e.g. Sherborn (1929), Neave (1940), Woodring (1959), Habe (1964), Emerson (1967) and Dance & Emerson (1967).

2. *Oniscidia* has remained in constant use in malacological literature, but with an erroneous credit of authorship to Swainson, and has been utilized as a subgenus of *Morum* Röding, 1798. *Oniscidia* has been last used by Woodring (1959) and Olsson & Petit (1964.) H. & A. Adams (1853) are considered the first authors who have validly introduced the genus-group *Oniscidia* by supplying a generic diagnosis with 5 included species, and considering *Oniscidia* a distinct taxon from *Oniscia* Sowerby, which the authors placed in the synonymy of *Morum* Röding. Cossmann (1903) designated *Oniscia cancellata* Sowerby, 1824, as the type species of *Oniscidia*, a species which was among the originally included species of *Oniscidia* H. & A. Adams.

3. The genus-group name *Oniscidia* H. & A. Adams, 1853, is therefore considered to be a validly introduced binomial taxon which is not a *nomen nudum*, *nomen oblitum* or *nomen dubium*, nor a homonym of either *Oniscidia* Swainson or Gray. *Oniscidia* Swainson, 1840, is an acknowledged misspelling and *Oniscidia* Gray, 1847, merely a listing of Swainson's misspelling in the synonymy of *Oniscia* Sowerby. *Oniscidia* of Swainson and Gray must be considered "incorrect subsequent spellings" under the provisions of Article 33 (b) of the Code of ICZN, and consequently have no status in nomenclature and do not enter into homonymy.

4. *Oniscidia* has been discarded by Americantaxonomists in the belief that the name is not valid, and a new name *Cancellomorum* Emerson & Old, 1963 (*Americ. Mus. Novitates*, No. 2153 : 18) has been proposed for the same group of species, even though it is a synonym. The type-species of *Cancellomorum*, by original designation, is *Oniscia grandis* A. Adams, 1855 (*Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 1853 : 185).

5. Dance & Emerson (1967) had the following comments to make: "Until recently, the cancellate species of *Morum* were commonly referred to either '*Oniscidia*' (Swainson, 1840; p. 229) or to '*Onimusiro*' (Kira, 1955, p. 43; 1959, p. 51), neither of which is an available name". *Onimusiro* was published by Kira in a caption to a figure of *Morum* (*Onimusiro*) *grande*. No

diagnosis was given nor was a type-species designated. The name, thus, does not comply with the criteria of availability laid down in Article 13 of the Code for names published after 1930. The genus name was re-introduced into malacological literature by Habe (1964) with the sentence: "*Onimusiro*, a sub-genus of the genus *Morunu* substitutes *Onisca* Sowerby, 1852, non Röding 1798, and *Oniscidia* Swainson 1840 which was a misspelled name of *Onisca*". The genus name *Morum* has been misspelled, Sowerby did not establish a "*Onisca*" in 1852 but *Oniscia* in 1824, and Röding is not the author of either "*Onisca*" or *Oniscia*. The proposal of a substitute name for the non-existent "*Onisca* Sowerby, 1852" or for a misspelling with no status in nomenclature, renders "*Onimusiro*" invalid for a second time. It should be pointed out that *Oniscia* Sowerby, 1824, with its type species *Strombus oniscus* Linnaeus, 1767, is an objective synonym of *Morum* Röding, 1798, which has *M. purpureum* Röding, 1798 (= *Strombus oniscus* Linnaeus) as its type species.

6. The proposal of new names for *Oniscidia*, comments by Dance & Emerson, 1967, as to the non-validity of *Oniscidia*, the current usage of *Cancellomorum* in preference to *Oniscidia* by American zoologists, clearly represent a challenge as to the validity of *Oniscidia*.

7. In view of the foregoing statements, the Commission is requested:

- (1) to place the following generic names on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
 - (a) *Oniscidia* H. & A. Adams, 1853 (gender: feminine) type-species by subsequent designation by Cossmann, 1903: *Oniscia cancellata* Sowerby, 1824;
 - (b) *Morum* Röding, 1798 (gender: neuter), type-species by monotypy *Morum purpureum* Röding, 1798;
- (2) to place the following specific names on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *cancellata* Sowerby, 1824, as published in the binomen *Oniscia cancellata*;
 - (b) *oniscus* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the binomen *Strombus oniscus*;
- (3) to place the following generic names on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Oniscidia* Swainson, 1840 (an incorrect subsequent spelling for *Oniscia* Sowerby, 1824);
 - (b) *Oniscidia* Gray, 1847 (an incorrect subsequent spelling for, and published in synonymy of, *Oniscia* Sowerby, 1824).

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COMMENT ON THE PROPOSED PRESERVATION OF *EUDYPTES SCLATERI* BULLER, 1888, AND *EUDYPTES ROBUSTUS* OLIVER, 1953. Z.N.(S.) 1893 (see volume 28, pages 92-93)

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The proposal to allow the specific name *atratus* Finsch, 1875, to remain available leads to a situation where an unused name is permitted to linger about as something at the same time of no interest and still to be remembered. The straightforward course is to suppress that name as indeterminate and a threat to stability. The very improbable event foreseen by Dr. Watson, that a hitherto unnoticed bird species, or subspecies, of penguin should turn up and need the name *atratus* may easily be remedied by giving that bird a brand new name.

Our science should not be clogged by subtleties such as to give "honour" to the first man to describe a species even when he has not done it in any acceptable manner. No such "honour" is given to collectors, or later and serious revisers. To describe a new species is better considered a responsibility, not an honour.

Hence I propose the following formulation:

- (1) Under the plenary powers to suppress the specific name *atratus* Finsch, 1875, as published in the binomen *Eudyptes atratus*, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy;
- (2) (unaltered);
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *atratus* Finsch, 1875, as suppressed in (1) above.

COMMENT ON REQUEST TO REVISE THE CODE TO PERMIT EMENDATION OF CERTAIN *-ii* ENDINGS OF PATRONYMS. Z.N.(S.) 1913 (see volume 27, pages 250-252)

A Resolution of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Whereas the problem of patronymic names ending in *-i* or *-ii* has long exasperated and frustrated systematic zoologists necessitating extensive literature checking and,

Whereas this problem causes difficulties to general zoologists, text book writers, editors, and others not primarily concerned with systematic zoology and,

Whereas Smith, Stuart, and Conant have recently requested that the International Commission revise the 1964 code to permit valid emendation of certain *-ii* endings of patronyms, now therefore be it

Resolved that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists meeting in Los Angeles in June 1971 expresses its support for the solution of this problem by permitting free usage of either the *-i* or the *-ii* ending, the two variants being considered nomenclatural equals, and be it further

Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Secretary of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.